
PLEASE FORWARD THIS EMAIL TO ANYONE YOU THINK MAY HAVE BEEN
PLANNING TO
ATTEND THURSDAY'S MEETING.

We have decided to cancel the meeting scheduled for this Thursday in LA to discuss HIPAA application to CWS, APS, and IHSS. The federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) issued proposed changes to the privacy standards last week. They clarify that functions do not need to be included as a HIPAA covered component unless they themselves send or receive one or more of the nine HIPAA electronic transactions. This allows counties to exclude CWS, APS, and IHSS functions from HIPAA. There is a 30-day comment period with final changes to be issued subsequently. As this section is simply a clarification of their earlier rules, it is likely to stand. You can view the proposed rules at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/whatsnew.html> .

Thank you for your involvement in this discussion. After everyone has a chance to review this material we may decide to convene a discussion on the implications of these new rules for the social service functions.

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